Steps to Check HIV Infection in Rural Areas

*455. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to have the largest number of HIV victims in the World by 2000; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop the spreading of the infection in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTERY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) WHO/UNAIDS has published a report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic in June, 1998 in which they had reported that India will have largest number of HIV infected people in the World.

(b) In order to preverU and control HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation as a centrally sponsored scheme throughout the country; in urban as well as rural areas. The strategies of the programme consists of, (i) Strengthening of programme management capabilities at centre and state levels by greater decentralisation to the field level for community involvement; (ii) Creation of awareness amongst high risk behaviour groups and targeted groups in general population about HIV/AIDS; (iii) Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases. and promotion of Condom use; (iv) Ensure safety of Blood and Blood products; (v) Strengthen the surveillance system; and (vi) Creating an enabling socio-economic environment for people living with HIV/AIDS and to take effective measures for their care and support.

Discontinuing the grant to Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation for rainfed farming project

*456. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND ' FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to discontinue the grant to Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation for rainfed farming project:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor in view of the top priority assured for development of rainfed areas in the budget statement; and

(c) if not, the grant extended this year to HFC against the grant extended during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: (a) to (c) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) implemented a Rainfed Farming Project in 8 districts of Eastern India from 1989 to 1995 with financial assistance from the Overseas Development Administration (OEJA), UK. This financial assistance was routed through the Government budget. HFC's proposal for a new project to be undertaken beyond 1995 was not approved by ODA on the ground that the future of HFC was not certain.

Outbreak of Gaestro-Entcritis in Assam

*457. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gaestro-entritis outbreak in Assam during last five years;

(b) whether this epidemic is largely concentrated in tea-gardens and adjoining areas;

(c) if so, the reasons for such concentration and the details of affected gardens and reported deaths, year-wise;